an authentic account of the ſinking in of the ſmall river near Pontypool in Wales. It is written by an exciſe-officer in that diſtrict, and was put into my hand by Mr. Windham Bowyer, one of the commiſſioners of that board. I am,

SIR,

Pall-mall, Mar. 11. 1756.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

John Pringle.

---

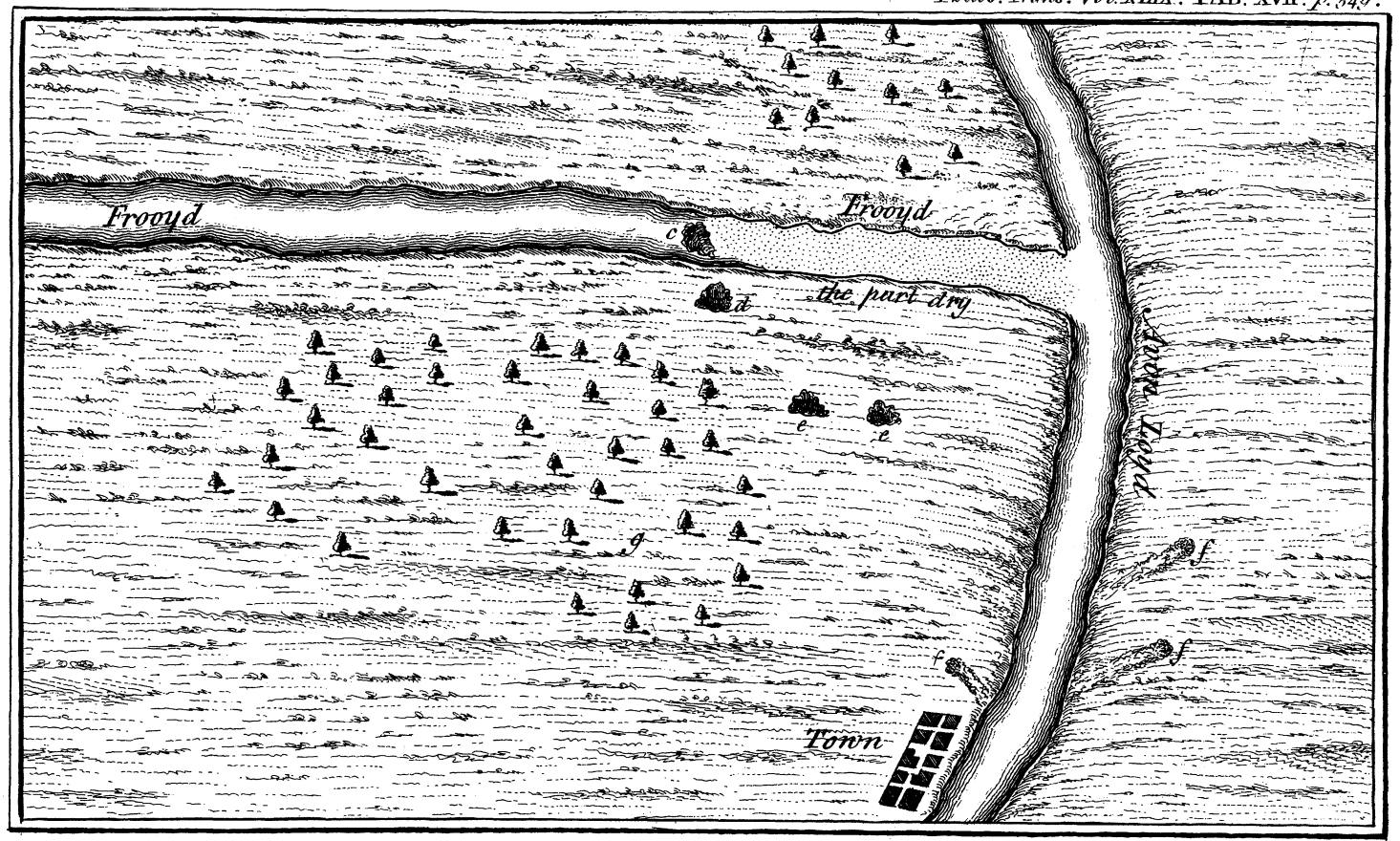
## LXXX. *An Account of the Sinking of a River near* Pontypool *in* Monmouthſhire; *in a Letter from Mr.* Edward Matthews, *to the Commiſſioners of the Exciſe.*

Honourable Sirs,

Read Mar. 12, 1756. IN obedience to your honours orders of the 14th inſtant, relating to the ſinking of a river near Pontypool; from my own obſervation laſt Friday (the firſt time I ſaw it) and that of the neighbouring inhabitants, as under, is the beſt account I am able to give of it. The firſt day of January laſt, a poor woman living near its mouth ſent her daughter for water (a great flood appearing in the river juſt before) who returned in ſurprize with the account, that it was dry.

The

The River is called by the name of Frooyd, running between two ſteep hills, or woods, but not very high: it proceeds from water from the adjacent mountains, and ſeems penn'd up and let out precipitately, to cleanſe the iron ore lying near the ſurface on the ſides of theſe mountains, which greatly diſcolours the water, which at thoſe times, and after heavy rains, is ſo rapid and violent, as to carry down prodigious quantities of large ſtones into another river called Avon Looyd. On Friday laſt I walked up the Frooyd on the bottom of the river, it being quite dry, up to the chaſm, that now receives the water: it is about twenty feet wide; and when its banks are full, about eight or ten feet deep; but now filled up to fifteen feet with ſtones carried in by the water. There's a lime-ſtone rock near the ſurface, about two feet thick, lying in large beds two or three feet ſquare, more or leſs, in ſome places, joined cloſe in others; the joints not ſo cloſe between theſe beds filled up with ſmall gravel, which was by the rapidity of the ſtream ſuppoſed to be waſhed out of thoſe joints over a cavity under the ſaid lime-ſtone rock, and the great weight of water at that time falling from a ſmall precipice juſt above, forced in one of theſe beds of ſtone. The ſides of the pit under the lime-ſtone rock appear to be compoſed of different materials, as gravel and earth, but firm and perpendicular. On one ſide this river near this hole, are three pits ſunk at the ſame time, the one within ten yards, of which there was no appearance before; the other two at about thirty yards up the ſide of the hill (which have been obſerved, for many years, though no body knew the cauſe of them) are now ſunk ſome yards


Frooyd
Frooyd
c
d
the part dry
e
f
g
Town
J. Mynde sc.

yards deeper, and ſome trees and ſhrubs, that were round the edge of theſe pits, with the ground on which they grew, are ſunk down near the bottom. I believe theſe pits at top may be about twelve yards diameter growing gradually narrower to a center, in ſhape of a funnel or tun-diſh. Under, it is ſuppoſed, is this cavity, through which the river now runs, extending itſelf in one place under the river Avon-Looyd, at about a mile diſtance, where it broke out a few days after, in ſeveral places, on the oppoſite ſide thereof, where were three ſmall ſprings. The reaſon for this conjecture is, theſe ſprings were obſerved to be always clear till a few days after the ſinking of this rock, but now continue to put forth large quantities of this water, which varies in colour agreeable to the water received in at the hole. I am,

Your Honours

Abergavennny, Feb. 22, 1756.

moſt humble and

obedient ſervant,

Edward Matthews.

TAB. XVII.

*a.* The great chaſm, which receives the greateſt part of the water.

*b.* Gravel waſhed away in the joint of the rock, through which runs into the cavity a conſiderable quantity of water, within four foot of the great hole.

*c.* A precipice juſt above the chaſm.

*d.* A hole ſunk in never before obſerved.

*e e.* Two pits obſerved years ago, now ſunk much deeper.

*f f f.* Former clear ſmall ſprings, where it is ſuppoſed the water now vents itſelf.

*g g.* Steep riſing ground, or woods, on each ſide Frooyd, declining towards the Looyd.

---

## LXXXI. *An Account of the Agitation of the Waters, on the 1ſt of* November 1756, *in* Scotland *and at* Hamburgh. *Communicated by* John Pringle, *M. D. F. R. S. in a Letter to the Rev.* Tho. Birch, *D. D. Secret. R. S.*

SIR,

Read Mar. 18, 1756. THE two incloſed accounts of the agitation of the waters, on the firſt of November laſt, I received ſince the laſt meeting of the Society. One was tranſmitted to me by Dr. Simſon, profeſſor of medicine in the univerſity of St. Andrews, containing the obſervation of Mr. Mark M'Callum, maſter of a Greenland ſhip, who happened to be that day at the Queen's-Ferry, a ſea-port town on the Frith of Forth, about ſeven miles farther up than Leith. The account is addreſſed to the rev. Mr. Dalgleiſh, a friend of Dr. Simſon's, and employed by him to procure the beſt information.

Dr. Simſon, in the ſame letter to me, takes notice of a report, as if the ſame agitation of the water was likewiſe